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General Assembly

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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2017
5-11 September 2017
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report and proposed dates for the organizational and substantive sessions in 2018

Draft report

Rapporteur: Rita **Le Diffard** (Hungary)

I. Organizational matters

A. Membership

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/222 B, in 2017 the Committee on Conferences was composed of the following Member States: Austria, Bahrain, the Central African Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and the United States of America.[1]

B. Officers

2. At its organizational session for 2017 (547th meeting), held on 21 June 2017, the Committee elected the following officers to serve in 2017:

Chair:
Lewis G. **Brown** (Liberia)

Vice-Chairs:
Fabrice **Fize** (France)
Abbas **Yazdani** (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Christine Renee **Bailey** (Jamaica)

Rapporteur:
Rita **Le Diffard** (Hungary)

[1] Two seats remain vacant, one to be filled from among the Asia-Pacific States and another to be filled from among the Latin American and Caribbean States.

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3. Also at its organizational session, the Committee agreed in principle that the Chair would undertake informal consultations with a view to determining the composition of its Bureau for 2018 and that the outgoing Chair and members of the Bureau would continue in their capacity until the Bureau for 2018 was elected.

C. Organization of work

4. At its organizational session, the Committee agreed to follow the guidelines adopted in 1994 and 1995 with regard to its consideration of intersessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and meetings and to meet, as required, to review proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings during sessions of the General Assembly.

5. At the same session, the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management addressed the Committee. Representatives of the Secretariat answered questions raised by the delegations of Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Morocco.

6. Also at the same session, the Secretary of the Committee introduced the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2018 and 2019 (E/2017/L.20). The Committee reviewed the provisional calendar and recommended it for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. The recommendation of the Committee was transmitted in a letter dated 27 June 2017 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/2017/78).

7. The Committee held its substantive session from 5 to 11 September 2017 (548th to ___th meetings). At the opening of the substantive session, on 5 September, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/72/116). During the formal meetings, statements were made by the representatives of Afghanistan, Austria, Azerbaijan, France, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kenya, Morocco, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United States of America.

D. Programme of work

8. At its organizational session for 2016 (541st meeting), held on 25 April 2016, the Committee requested that the Secretariat submit the provisional agenda for 2017 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2017. At its organizational session for 2017 (547th meeting), held on 21 June 2017, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.172/2017/L.1) and requested that the Secretariat submit a provisional agenda for 2018 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2018. The Committee also decided to include in its programme of work for the year, prior to the Committee's substantive session or upon request, informal briefings by the Secretariat on issues of interest to Member States relating to conference management.

E. Participation of observers

9. Two Member States, Israel and Turkey, were represented as observers at the organizational session of the Committee. Fourteen Member States, namely, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cuba, Greece, India, Iraq, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan, as well as one intergovernmental organization, the International Organization of la Francophonie, were represented as observers at the substantive session.